

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GENEVA 09715 01 OF 02 261906Z  
ACTION IO-14

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OMB-01 TRSE-00 FDRE-00 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-11  
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R 261848Z JUN 78  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1358  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 09715

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: UNDP EAID  
SUBJECT: 25TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL: UNITED NATIONS  
SAHELIAN OFFICE AND DROUGHT-STRICKEN COUNTRIES IN AFRICA  
AND ADJACENT AREAS (AGENDA ITEM 9)

ITEM WAS INTRODUCED BY UNDP'S REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA.  
THE STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTED IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS  
FACING SAHELIAN COUNTRIES AND OVERALL SHORTFALL IN AID  
RESOURCES. REFERRING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION  
3054 (XXVIII) REGIONAL DIRECTOR ASKED FOR COUNCIL GUIDANCE  
IN TREATING MAURITANIA AND SENEGAL AS RLDC'S AND THEREBY  
INCREASING THEIR IPF'S BY 6.4 PERCENT.

UNSO DIRECTOR SUBSEQUENTLY SPOKE ABOUT RESOURCE OBLIGA-  
TION ACTIVITIES AND REFERRED TO EXPANDED ROLE RECOMMENDED  
BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM.

DELEGATIONS TAKING FLOOR AGREED ON USEFUL ROLE BEING  
PLAYED BY UNSO. DEVELOPED COUNTRIES GAVE ASSURANCES OF  
CONTINUED ASSISTANCE TO SAHEL.

U.S. STATEMENT, GIVEN BY PIERRE SALES, FOLLOWS:  
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 09715 01 OF 02 261906Z

BEGIN TEXT: SELDOM HAS HISTORY WITNESSED A COOPERATIVE  
VENTURE SUCH AS THE ONE REPRESENTED IN THE SAHEL.  
MASSIVE TECHNICAL AND CAPITAL ASSISTANCE -- ESTIMATED  
AT DOLS 3.3 BILLION -- HAS BEEN CHanneled TO THE  
COUNTRIES OF THE AREA OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS.  
ANOTHER DOLS 2.3 BILLION IS FORECAST FOR 1978 AND 1979.

I CITE THESE FIGURES AS A REMINDER OF THE VOLUME OF RESOURCE FLOWS FOR THIS VITAL AREA, BEARING IN MIND ALSO THAT WE ARE COLLECTIVELY ENGAGED IN A LONG-TERM, 25-YEAR, DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

THE DONOR COMMUNITY HAS JOINED HANDS, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, SO HAVE THE RECIPIENTS. ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PAST TWO YEARS HAS BEEN THE FORGING OF A SPIRIT OF UNITY AMONG THE LEADERS OF THE SAHELIAN STATES. AS A RESULT OF THE EFFORTS EXPENDED BY THE CLUB DU SAHEL AND THE CILSS, MY GOVERNMENT NOW BELIEVES THAT A WELL-DEVELOPED, WELL-COORDINATED AND INSTITUTIONALIZED APPROACH TO THE MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT OF THE SAHEL APPEARS REALISTIC.

MR. DOO KINGUE REMINDED US YESTERDAY THAT THE SAHEL COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO FACE PRESSING NEEDS, TODAY. MY GOVERNMENT IS, OF COURSE, CLOSELY MONITORING THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE AREA AND WILL DO ITS UTMOST TO HELP MEET IMMEDIATE, AS WELL AS LONGER-TERM, REQUIREMENTS.

THE UNITED NATIONS SAHELIAN OFFICE HAS PLAYED A VALUABLE ROLE AND HAS MOBILIZED RESOURCES FOR ACTIVITIES ON THE CILSS PRIORITY LIST. IT HAS ALSO DONE A CONSIDERABLE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 GENEVA 09715 01 OF 02 261906Z

BLE JOB IN PLANNING AND COORDINATION. UNSO'S ROLE HAS EVOLVED GRADUALLY AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. TWO TRENDS ARE NOW APPARENT:

FIRSTLY, AT THE MEETING OF THE CILSS HEADS OF STATE LAST DECEMBER, THE SO-CALLED "FIRST GENERATION" PROJECTS WERE ADOPTED. THE KNOWLEDGE THAT SUFFICIENT FUNDS WERE PLEDGED BY THE DONORS AT THE 1977 CLUB DU SAHEL MEETING IN OTTAWA TO MEET THE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THOSE PROJECTS WOULD APPEAR TO INDICATE THAT UNSO'S FUND-MOBILIZING ACTIVITIES IS BEING SERIOUSLY DIMINISHED. ITS FUTURE ROLE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WILL HAVE TO BE EXAMINED.

AND, SECONDLY, UNSO TAKES ON A NEW DIMENSION AS A RESULT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S ACTION LAST DECEMBER, DESIGNATING UNSO AS THE UN MECHANISM TO ASSIST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION. MR. PRESIDENT, MY GOVERNMENT FAVORS THE SECOND OPTION IN THE REPORT OFFERED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM, TO EXPAND UNSO

INTO A JOINT UNDP/UNEP OPERATION. ADOPTION OF THIS OPTION WOULD ENTAIL AN EXPANSION OF UNSO'S REGIONAL OFFICE ON OUAGADOUGOU. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, ASSUME THAT UNDP'S FIELD OFFICES WOULD SERVE AS UNSO'S ORGANIZATIONAL TENTACLES IN THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION.

MR. PRESIDENT, MY DELEGATION WOULD SUGGEST THAT FUTURE REPORTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM IN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION SPECIFY THE STATUS OF THE UN TRUST FUND. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN USEFUL TO KNOW, FOR EXAMPLE,

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 09715 02 OF 02 261905Z  
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 09715

IN DP/326: WHAT WAS THE 1977 DELIVERY RATE? WHAT PORTION OF THE DOLS 44 MILLION IS OPERATIONALLY COMMITTED?

FINALLY, MR. PRESIDENT, MR. DOO KINGUE HAS ASKED FOR THE COUNCIL'S VIEW REGARDING THE CLASSIFICATION OF SENEGAL AND MAURITANIA AS LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THE FAVORABLE IMPACT THIS WOULD HAVE ON THEIR IPF'S. IN THE VIEW OF MY DELEGATION, THE RECLASSIFICATION OF THESE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD FOLLOW STANDARD UN PROCEDURES BY WHICH COUNTRY STATISTICS ARE EVALUATED AND A DETERMINATION REACHED. THIS COUNCIL IS IN NO POSITION TO RENDER A JUDGMENT ON THIS MATTER. OUR VIEW, MR. PRESIDENT, SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS A LACK OF SENSITIVITY TOWARDS THE PROBLEMS FACING SENEGAL AND MAURITANIA BUT RATHER AN EXPRESSION OF HAVING TO FOLLOW ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES IN THIS CASE.

THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, END TEXT.

U.K. AND NETHERLANDS SUPPORTED PRINCIPAL POINTS MADE ABOVE.  
VANDEN HEUVEL

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## Message Attributes

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